

LARGE

CB-0053

(E) B4

EXDIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transferred to O/EADRC

Cat. B - Transferred to O/EADRC
with additional access
controlled by S/S

Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by SAS

Reviewed by: Elijah Kelly Jr.

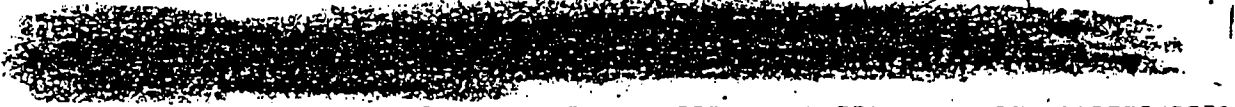
Date: 10/21/88

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TUTS779
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ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 010130Z FEB 79
FM AMCONSUL UDORN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8630
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1703
RUMJES/AMEMPASSY VIENTIANE 0826
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0002
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 0041

ALL b3

EXDIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 31 JAN 85 (CARNEY, TIMOTHY M.) DR-M
TAGS: SHUM MYOL SREF LA
SUBJECT: ALLEGED GASSING OF HMONG IN LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 20515 (EXDIS) (H) STATE 20526
(C) GENEVA 27616 (EXDIS)

1. SUMMARY. (U) FOREIGN MEDICAL PERSONNEL HAVE TREATED REFUGEES WHO ARE POSSIBLE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL ATTACK FOR SKIN BURNS/LESIONS BUT CANNOT BE SURE OF CAUSES OF INJURIES. NO SUCH CASES ARE NOW AT NONG KHAI. SERIOUSLY GASSED HMONG WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO SURVIVE THE TRIP TO THAILAND. LOCAL FACILITIES ARE INADEQUATE TO TEST FOR GAS/CHEMICAL AGENTS BUT URINE/BLOOD SAMPLES CAN BE SENT TO BANGKOK FOR ANALYSIS. END SUMMARY.

2. (C)

REPORT THAT SOME HMONG REFUGEES WITH UNUSUAL SKIN BURNS/LESIONS HAVE BEEN TREATED AT CAMPS. NO SUCH CASES ARE NOW AT NONG KHAI, HOWEVER, AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL BELIEVE THE BURNS/LESIONS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO CAUSES OTHER THAN GAS OR CHEMICAL AGENT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR

REVIEWED by J. L. ... DATE 11/7/88

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
 DEFER () Non-responsive info.

FOR HQ or PA classification: (S)(C)
 CA 13 2-13 TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____ OADB
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADB

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EXPOSURE.

3. (U) BADLY GASSED HMONG SIMPLY CANNOT MAKE IT TO THAILAND. THE TWO AREAS OF REPORTED LAO GOVERNMENT/VIETNAMESE ARMY GAS ATTACKS, PHU BJA AND PHU KONG KHAD, LIE A VERY TOUGH, TWO-WEEK WALK FROM THE MEKONG. ONLY THE STRONG CAN MAKE IT AT ALL AND THEN SURVIVE THE RIVER CROSSING TO THAILAND. LIGHTLY GASSED SURVIVORS WILL HAVE EITHER RECOVERED FROM THEIR SYMPTOMS OR DROPPED OUT OF THE MARCH LONG BEFORE REACHING A REFUGEE CAMP.

4. (C) LOCAL FACILITIES ARE NOT UP TO THE PRECISE LAB WORK NEEDED TO CONFIRM GASSING IF A VICTIM DOES MAKE IT TO THAILAND. BLOOD/URINE SAMPLES CAN BE TAKEN AT NONG KHAI OR LOEI REFUGEE CAMPS AND FLOWN TO BANGKOK FOR ANALYSIS. B6

5. (C) THOSE OF US WHO HAVE INTERVIEWED HMONG HAVE NO DOUBT SOME SORT OF CHEMICAL AGENT HAS BEEN USED AGAINST THEM. RAISING THE MATTER WITH LAO AUTHORITIES MIGHT SENSITIZE THEM AND THEIR VIETNAMESE MENTORS (REF C) AND PREVENT FUTURE USE EITHER IN LAOS OR POSSIBLY AS PART OF VIETNAMESE OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA (AS POL POT CHARGED WITHOUT EVIDENCE) OR AGAINST DISSIDENTS IN THE SRV ITSELF.
CARNEY

END OF MESSAGE

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